

Applicants: Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuno
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
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Support for new claim 19 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 10, line 17-22. Support for new claim 20 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 11, line 11-15.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be added.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit 1**). These references were previously cited in connection with the prosecution of U.S. Serial No. 08/911,616, from which the subject application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of patents or publications that were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office in connection with such prior applications need not accompany the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, copies of the following references are not attached to this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,058,470 to Moschovis et al., issued November 15, 1977;
2. U.S. Patent No. 3,939,087 to Vijayendran et al., issued February 17, 1976;
3. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 224 912 to Larson James, R., published June 10, 1987;

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4. Obata Shinichiro, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol.95, no. 11, August 15, 1995;
5. Higuchi Yoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 18, no. 48, October 22, 1993;
6. Yamamoto Kyoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 17, no. 485, May 18, 1993; and
7. DATABASE WPI Abstract of Publication No. JP 53 057 039 dated May 24, 1978.

Applicants maintain that none of the above-listed references discloses or suggests applicant's claimed invention.

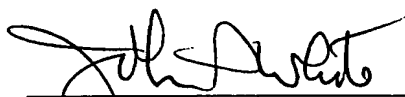
Applicants also submit herewith as **Exhibit 2**, a copy of a European Search Report issued November 28, 1997 in connection with corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 97 11 3883.9.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone the number provided.

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No fee, other than the enclosed fee of \$690.00 for filing the subject application, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 54490-Z		Serial No. Not Yet Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuno		Filing Date Herewith Group	

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate		
		4 0 5 8 4 7 0	11/15/77	Moschovis, et al.					
		3 9 3 9 0 8 7	2/17/76	Vijayendran, et al.					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation		
		0 2 2 4 9 1 2	6/10/87	Europe			Yes	No	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Obata Schinichiro, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol 95, no. 11, August 15, 1995
	Higuchi Yoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 18, no. 48, October 22, 1993
	Yamamoto Kyoichi, Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 17, no. 485, May 18, 1993
	DATABASE WPI Abstract of Publication No. JP 53 057 039 dated May 24, 1978

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Applicants: Yasuharu Suda and Hiroaki Kuno
 U.S. Serial No. Not Yet Known
 Filed: **Exhibit 1**